NDPS Consultative Committee

2297. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Consultative Committee was constituted vide notification of 15th February, 1988 by the Department of Revenue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the masterplan as recommended by this Committee is proposed to be revived;

(d) if so, why it has not been done so far; and

(e) the details of the ground covered by the Committee and whether the threat from narco-terrorism was considered by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e)Yes, Sir. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Consultative Committee was first constituted vide Notification of 15th February, 1988. While no meeting has been held so far, Government propose to re-constitute the Committee shortly and hold a meeting immediately thereafter.

Policy regarding nomination of officer nominee director in Banks

2298. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing policy of Government for the nomination of officer nominee director on the Board of the nationalised banks;

(b) whether Government propose to change/ amend this policy, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the posts of officers nominee directors are lying vacant and tenure of officer directors have expired in some banks; if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in Punjab & Sind Bank no Officer-Director has been appointed since the nationalisation of the bank; if so, the reasons and action taken by Government; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to make the appointments?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Nomination of Officer employee directors on the boards of nationalised banks is made in accordance with the criteria and procedure prescribed in the relevant statutes and Government's guidelines in this regard. These guidelines are under review.

(c) and (e) At present the post of officer employee director is vacant in 5 nationalised banks. The tenure of officer employee directors in 6 other nationalised banks has expired but they are continuing to hold the directorship in terms of the provisions of the statutes, pending appointment of their successors. The process or appointment of officer employee directors shall be initiated as soon as the guidelines are finalised.

No officer employee director has been nominated so far on the Board of Punjab & Sind Bank since its nationalisation on account of non completion of laid down procedure.

वित्तीय संस्थाओं से प्राप्त किये गये ऋणों/ राशियों का दुरुपयोग

2299. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश की कुछ बड़ी कम्पनियों द्वारा वित्तीय संस्थाओं से प्राप्त किये गये ऋणों/राशियों के दुरुपयोग की घटनाएं सरकार के ध्यान में आयी हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार कम्पनियों द्वारा धन के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है;

(ग) दोषी पाई गयी कम्पनियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गयी है; और

(घ) भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और यथा उपलब्ध तथा नियमों के अन्तर्गत अनुज्ञेय सूचना सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Actual rate of inflation for Essential Commodities

2300. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the actual rate of inflation is more than fifteen per cent in respect of essential commodities consumed generally by common man;

(b) if not, the basis for computing the price index in respect of essential items;

(c) whether Government will provide any relief to Government/Semi-Government/Public Sector staff to compensate for erosion in their wages due to abnormally high rate of inflation arising from administered price hike of petrol, diesel and railway freight; and

(d) if so, the quantum of relief being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Annual inflation rate based on wholesale price index of 30 essential commodities taken together and that of 31 essential commodities based on retail price index during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is listed in Table 1.

Table 1

Annual Rate of Inflation of Essential Commodities

(per cent)

Year	Month	Whole-sale Price Index (1981-82)		Retail Price Index (1982)	
		All commo-dities	Essential commo-dities	General	Essential commo-dities
1995	April	10.0	9.1	9.7	10.1
	May	9.9	7.4	10.3	10.1
	June	9.1	7.0	10.5	13.4
	July	8.8	9.3	11.4	13.2
	August	8.8	7.3	10.9	13.3
	September	8.9	8.0	10.1	13.2
	October	8.4	7.5	10.4	12.7
	November	8.4	7.4	10.3	15.5
	December	6.4	5.0	9.7	11.4
1996	January	5.0	3.5	9.0	10.1
	February	4.6	3.4	8.6	9.7
	March	5.1	3.9	8.9	8.7
	April	5.0	4.9	9.8	9.7
	May	4.5	4.9	9.3	10.2
	June	4.6	5.8		
	July	5.0	5.0		

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(d) Question does not arise.

Operation of small aircraft from Madras to Velankanni

2301. SHRI O.S. MANIAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to operate a small aircraft from Madras to the great pilgrim centre of Velankanni;

(b) if so, what action has been taken so far; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?